

our grandchildren, join me at the retreat. The retreat afforded the opportunity for Members of Congress, many of whom have only spoken to one another in passing, to commune with one another and have dialog in order to learn more about each other. The retreat provided our families this same opportunity. When we saw our children and grandchildren playing together, it encouraged us to come together. Our bipartisan retreat also included excellent breakout sessions. The small group setting allowed us to have informal discussions without the uncivility that we have experienced in the House. Further, the occasion to have breakfast, lunch, and dinner together provided an opportunity at each session to visit with someone whom we had not visited with before. By the time we were ready to return home, it was obvious that all who attended the retreat felt a sense of kinship.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who attended the retreat also came away with a much greater understanding of the history and traditions of the House. As Members of Congress, we belong to the finest legislative institution in the world. All of us have an obligation to treat it in that manner.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MCINNIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. STENHOLM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. STENHOLM addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### MARGIE JANOVICH'S SACRIFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. CHRISTENSEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, 1 week ago today, we buried a lady from my district by the name of Margie Janovich. The story of Margie Janovich I shared last week with the American people, a story that she had struggled with the fight of cancer for 18 months, but I wanted to come back today and share the story again because it is such a moving story and tomorrow is the beginning of the debate with the partial birth abortion bill.

Margie's story, for those of you who have not heard, this is a family, Margie and her husband Joe had 9 children in this picture and I do not know, Mr. Speaker, if the camera can get a picture of this or not, but Margie was 44 years old when she passed away last week, and Margie died of cancer. She had been diagnosed with thyroid cancer, and at the time that Margie was diagnosed with thyroid cancer she was 5½ months pregnant. As a matter of

fact, she was pregnant with this little gal, Mary.

Well, Margie, because of her pro-life views and because she believes that life is the most sacred thing that could ever be given from God, said she was going to forgo cancer treatments so she would not risk hurting her unborn child. And so she waited until little Mary was born and the thyroid cancer spread. It spread to her breasts and into her lungs and 18 months later it eventually took her life.

But before it took her life, her 9 children, Nick and Tina, Jim and Terry and Mike and Joe and Danny and Andy and precious little Mary, experienced something that few children in America experience, and that is a mother who not only loved them but gave her life for them. And someday when her husband Ron sits down to tell little Mary what act of sacrifice and what her mother did to deliver Mary safely into a world, into a country that does not value life, I think it will be a story that will touch Mary forever.

As I think of tomorrow's debate, and think of the 25 million children we have murdered in America because of convenience, because of choice, I think of my conversation with Margie Janovich 1 week before she passed away. She always had a smile on her face, and when I went in to visit her in the hospital she asked me now, are we going to have the votes this year to override a veto on the partial birth abortion? She always was thinking about how we could protect more lives. She was always thinking about someone else, thinking about her family, thinking about her children and thinking about the unborn.

I had a chance this week on Sunday to go over and see Ron and see the kids, I saw Andy and Danny and Tina. It has been a difficult 18 months for them, but they have experienced something because of what their mother gave that few children in America will be able to experience, and that is the love of a mother for her children. I think of the issue of convenience, and I think of the issue of sacrifice, because that is really what abortion is all about.

It is about a choice, but the choice occurs prior, prior to conception. The choice occurs whether or not you are going to get into bed with someone. The choice occurs far before the issue of an unborn life. And Margie Janovich understood this choice. She understood the choice of life. She understood the issue of taking an unborn life, and she decided for her the best thing to do would be to protect life.

But even under the partial birth abortion bill that we are going to be debating tomorrow, Margie could have taken the route of an abortion, because her life was in danger. So the bill tomorrow that we are going to be debating would have allowed for that exception. You will hear a lot of rhetoric tomorrow about an amendment talking about health of the mother. But the

health of the mother could be anything, from emotional distress to financial distress, to a number of things.

I hope that the American people are watching tonight as they decide to call and to get active and get involved and call their Representatives, because tomorrow is the debate, and tomorrow as we decide, I hope the American people will remember Margie Janovich and her 9 children and the sacrifice that she made for her little baby, Mary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. CLAYTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. WAMP] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WAMP addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### THE BIPARTISAN RETREAT IN HERSHEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. HINOJOSA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the bipartisan retreat in Hershey, PA. We came together in an effort to bring greater civility to the House of Representatives, and that is exactly what I feel we accomplished. We wanted to set a tone of cooperation and compromise for the 105th Congress. We proved that it could be done. As freshman Representative, JO ANN EMERSON from Missouri and I recruited over 60 percent of the 74 Members of our 1996 class. We made sure that our young class is included in the struggle to unite our House of Representatives. Both of us served as part of the planning team and coleaders of the small group sessions. The participants in planning this event spanned the range of ideological, geographic, ethnic and seniority differences.

This diversity was also reflected by those attending the retreat, as evidenced by the participation of the Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH, Majority Leader DICK ARMEY, Minority Leader DICK GEPHARDT, and Minority Whip DAVID BONIOR.

Acrimony seemed to be the trademark of the past 104th Congress. Upon coming to Washington, it was very apparent to me that the House of Representatives was at a crossroads and that, more than anything, efforts needed to be made so that we could have a level of trust in each other. It was imperative to strive to achieve this goal in order to be able to effectively work together and, in turn, to be productive. Ultimately, that is what all of our respective constituencies elected us and sent us here to Washington to do.